D. Pesticides restricted for use in India

1. Aluminium Phosphide
2. DDT
3. Lindane
4. Methyl Bromide
5. Methl Parathion
6. Sodium Cyanide
7. Methoxy Ethyl Merciru Chloride (MEMC)
8. Monocrotophos (ban for use on vegetables)
9. Fenitrothion

Patenting of Indigenous Seeds by Multinational Companies

†*9. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the multinational companies are misleading the poor farmers by patenting indigenous seeds in the name of GM (Genetically Modified);

(b) if so, the action taken by Government against such companies and the efforts made to check it; and

(c) the effort being made by Government for scientific study and development of the indigenous seeds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Bt. cotton is the only genetically modified crop approved for commercial cultivation in the country by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. All the Bt. cotton hybrids have been developed by private seed companies from Indian cultivators using genetically modified seeds procured from Monsanto of USA, Biotechnology Transgenes China Corporation and IIT, Kharagpur. Seeds are not patentable under Section 3 (j) of The Patents Act, 1970 as amended in 2002. However, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 has been enacted and operationalized for protection of the rights of farmers, plant breeders, researchers and local communities.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sanctioned a project for development of Transgenics to increase yield and quality of different crops. The National Agriculture Research System is continuously engaged in development of new and improved varieties of crops.

Chikungunya in Kerala

*10. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE to pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported spreading of Chikungunya in Kerala in large scale, affecting thousands of people and resulting in the death of a number of people;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.